

<b>Applicant Name</b>	Fergus County Conservation District
<b>Project Name</b>	Upper and Lower Carter Pond Dam Repair

### **Project Abstract**

This proposal is to rebuild the dams of 24-acre Upper Carter Pond and 28-acre Lower Carter Pond to current specifications. The dams are located about six miles north of Lewistown. Each dam will store about 140 acre-feet after project completion.

Work was last done on the dams in the 1980s. In July 2004, the upper dam had a slow failure due to pipe corrosion; it is now about eight feet below normal pool. Early in 2004, the trickle tube on the lower dam collapsed, but the dam did not fail. The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) recommended repair or breach of both dams.

The project is a cooperative effort between a private landowner; local, state, and federal entities; and Ducks Unlimited to re-establish a fishery, waterfowl habitat; and recreation area at Upper and Lower Carter ponds. Each pond has a Montana Department of Fish & Wildlife Parks (DFWP) fishing access site. The dams and most of the shoreline are privately owned, but a walk-in public easement surrounds both reservoirs. The upper pond site has been developed with a latrine, gravel boat launch, and picnic tables. The lower site is not developed. Fishing pressure is substantial with about 1,600 angler-days each year. A rural fire hydrant that serves 200 to 300 people is located at Upper Carter Pond. It is currently not functioning due to low water.

The conservation district is seeking grant assistance of \$100,000 to match other funds being raised for the \$360,133 dam repair project. This project will ensure continued operation for fisheries, waterfowl habitat, recreation, storm water retention, and stock watering. The project should lead to establishment of a healthy riparian area surrounding the ponds.